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CLAIMS

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1. A container closure assembly, comprising a container mouth and a closure therefor, the closure comprising means for engaging the mouth and removable means for bracing the engagement means to lock it in an engaged condition.
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2. An assembly according to claim 1, wherein the bracing means comprises a band which at least in one operative position of the band embraces the engagement means, to resist outward movement of the engagement means.
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3. An assembly according to claim 2, wherein the band is hingedly movable.
4. An assembly according to claim 2 or 3, wherein prior to the closure being opened for the first time, the band is integral with a body portion of the closure
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- when the closure is in an operative condition secured to the container.
5. An assembly according to claim 2, 3 or 4, comprising at least one frangible connection between the band and an adjacent portion of the closure.
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6. An assembly according to claim 5, wherein the frangible connection is collapsible without shearing, to permit limited outward deformation of the engagement means.
7. An assembly according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the container has a
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- mouth having a larger configuration than the engagement means of the closure in an unstressed condition of the engagement means, such that when the closure is fitted to the container, the engagement means and the band are stressed.
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8. An assembly according to claim 5, 6 or 7, further comprising a plurality of ridges on a surface of the closure facing the band.

9. An assembly according to any preceding claim wherein the container mouth is a wide mouth (as defined herein).

10. An assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein the container and closure are able to withstand an internal pressure of at least 60 psi.

11. An assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein the bracing means comprises means for enabling a progressive release of the bracing effect around at least a portion of the periphery of the closure.

12. An assembly according to any preceding claim, further comprising means for producing at least one mechanical interlock between the bracing means and the engagement means for communicating tension in the bracing means to the engagement means.

13. An assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein the engagement means is segmented.

14. An assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein the engagement means comprises one or more lugs which engage one or more undercuts adjacent to the container mouth.

15. An assembly according to claim 14, wherein the undercut comprises a rim around the container mouth.

16. An assembly according to claim 14 or 15, wherein at least one said lug comprises a locking projection, the locking projection comprising a lead-in ramp, surface, and an abutment surface.

17. An assembly according to claim 16, wherein the abutment surface is inclined at an angle whose magnitude is less than that of the inclination of the ramp surface.

5 18. An assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein the closure is of plastics.

19. An assembly according to any preceding claim, wherein the closure is refittable to the container mouth after it has been removed for the first time.

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20. A container comprising an assembly as defined in any preceding claim.

21. A press-fit, lift-off container closure comprising an upper wall, a side wall or wall segment depending from the upper wall, engagement means on a radially outer face of the side wall or wall segment, and removable bracing means for bracing the side wall or wall segment to restrain radial outward movement thereof.

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22. A closure according to claim 21, wherein the bracing means comprises a band.

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23. A closure according to claim 21 or 23, wherein the bracing means is hingedly movable.

24. A closure according to claim 21, 22 or 23, wherein the bracing means is integral with a body portion of the closure and is joined thereto by a plurality of spaced apart frangible connections.

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25. A closure according to claim 24, wherein the frangible connections are collapsible without shearing to permit limited outward deformation of the engagement means.

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26. A closure according to any of claims 21 to 25, further comprising a plurality of ridges on a surface of the closure facing the bracing means.

27. A closure according to any of claims 21 to 26, further comprising means for forming at least one mechanical interlock means between the bracing means and the engagement means for communicating tension in the bracing means to the engagement means.

28. A closure according to any of claims 21 to 27 comprising a plurality of depending side wall segments.

29. A method of fitting a closure to a container mouth, the method comprising:

providing a press-fit closure comprising engagement means for engaging the container mouth, and bracing means for bracing the engagement means to resist outward movement of the engagement means beyond a certain position; and

pressing the closure on to the container mouth while the bracing means is in its operative position, the engagement means and the bracing means expanding to a stressed condition as the closure is pressed on to the container mouth.

30. A method according to claim 29, wherein the bracing means is and remains integral with the engagement means as the closure is pressed on to the container mouth.

31. A method according to claim 29 or 30, wherein the container mouth comprises a projecting rim, and the step of pressing comprises pressing the closure such that the engagement means interlocks with the rim.

32. A method of production comprising a method as defined in any of claims 29 or 31.

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